

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1-8 (canceled)

9. (currently amended) A method of reducing the uptake of [[high]] molecular weight substances above 4000 Da, allergens and microorganisms through the intestinal wall, comprising administering to a mammal in need thereof a nutritional composition containing a ~~at least one~~ polysaccharide selected from the group consisting of dextrans having a molecular weight of 8 kD to 40,000 kD, hydrolysed glucomannans having a molecular weight of 0.5 kD to 1,000 kD and hydrolysed galactomannans other than guar gum or hydrolysed guar gum, having a molecular weight of 0.5 kD to 1,000 kD, the polysaccharide being present in the nutritional composition only in an amount to cause an increase in the viscosity of the nutritional composition which is less than 10mPa.s.

10. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the polysaccharide is selected from dextrans having a molecular weight of 20 kD to 2,000 kD.

11. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nutritional composition is a complete food.

12. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nutritional composition is a food supplement.

13. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the uptake reduction occurs at the tight junctions of the intestinal wall.

14. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein said mammal suffers from allergies, allergic reactions, and inflammatory processes, which can arise under emotional and physical stress, ischaemia, reperfusion damage during and after operations, and after radiation treatment and/or chemotherapy of cancer patients.

15. (previously presented) A method as claimed in claim 9, wherein the nutritional composition is administered in a quantity such that the concentration of polysaccharide in the intestine is 0.1 to 6g/l.

16 (canceled)